

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clarification on Park Closures

Reports today that have indicated that most State parks slated to close this summer will stay open are not entirely accurate.

As of this date, it is more accurate to say that a significant number of State Parks could remain open if negotiations now underway are successful. At present, there are 11 parks on the closure list of 70 that will remain open with agreements. There are another 24 where partnership negotiations are in progress with cities, counties, non-profits and others and there is a strong likelihood that many of these will remain open. Beyond this, the Department has put out an RFP (Request for Proposals) on 11 parks, asking for bids back from non-profits or for-profits for operation of these particular parks. This process has just begun and the Department has not yet heard back with any proposals on those 11.

The Department has done workshops throughout the State, seeking any and all eligible partners to find ways to keep parks open for public use and enjoyment. That effort will continue and it is our hope that we can have a more positive statement at a later date.

We cannot estimate at this time how many Parks will actually be saved through this process, however we remain optimistic.

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